Funds for Short Duration films to Private Film companies

1640. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether her Ministry has granted funds for short duration films to some private sector film companies;

(b) if so, the fact and the details thereof;

(c) whether rules have been flouted in granting funds to private sector film companies;

(d) if so, the criteria laid down or followed for granting funds to film companies; and

(e) the persons responsible for such flouting of rules and further action contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes.

(b) An amount of Rs. 19.95 lakhs has so far been released to 13 producers who have been sanctioned 22 films of duration ranging from 5 minutes to 27 minutes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The criteria for selection of film companies include company profile, past experience and quality of scripts. The selection of producers/companies has generally been made/approved by a Committee headed by Secretary/ Additional Secretary. The selected film companies are asked to submit scripts on the subjects on which films are to be made and the scripts are examined and approved on the basis of thematic content and general treatment of the subject. The private film producers/companies so selected are paid 50% advance as per the rate card of DAVP.

(e) Question does not arise.

Plan for Street Children in Rajasthan

1641. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether government have any plan for the street children in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, how do Government want to solve their problem;

(d) whether the State Government is supposed to do anything in the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Under the Ministry's Scheme for Welfare of Street Children up to 90 per cent grant-in-aid are being provided to Non-Governmental Organisations in different parts of the country including Rajasthan for the care and rehabilitation of street children. Assistance is also being provided to State Governments under the Ministry's Scheme for Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of neglected and delinquent juveniles including street children. Under the scheme the expenditure is shared on 50:50 basis between the Central Government and the State Government concerned.

Amendment in the Disability Act

1642. DR. B.B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Disability Act to expand its scope and provide income-tax rebate to parents of disabled children; and

(b) if so, the details of the amendments proposed to be carried out in the main Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) A Committee has been constituted to review provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995 and to suggest and recommend suitable amendments in the existing provisions or new provisions in the Act, in order to cover the requirements of disabilities sector.

Joint Ventures with Foreign Steel Companies

1643. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some foreign steel companies have shown keen interest in having joint ventures with some of the steel plants of SAIL;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the efforts to have joint ventures with the foreign steel companies would have any impact on the performances of steel plants of SAIL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) to (d) Two parties, viz. M/s Nisso Iwai, Japan, and M/s Gamma Engineering, Canada, have shown interest for joint ventures with Salem Steel Plant in installation of steel making facilities and production of stainless steel slab respectively. However, this is in preliminary stage.

Joint Ventures with the foreign steel companies are expected to help in generation of cash apart from access to latest technologies, sharing of experiences and potential access to internal/external market.

Lignite Desposits in Gujarat

1644. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of lignite in Gujarat location-wise;

(b) whether some new lignite mines have been discovered by the Geological Survey of India or the State Directorate of Mines Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent of lignite deposits discovered in the new areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The details of lignite in Gujarat, location-wise is furnished in statement (*see* below)

(b) to (d) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has discovered some new lignite areas in Gujarat which are as follows:

(i) Rajpardi-Vastan block, Bharuch district.

(ii) Haripur-Daheli block, Bharuch district.

In Rajpardi-Vastan block, exploration has already established nearly 4 km. strike length of a 5.55m to 9.10m thick lignite seam within depth range of 50m to 125m in the southern continuity of the Bhuri Mining Block.

In Haripur-Daheli area shallow level occurrence of lignite seam having cumulative thickness of 12.55m with the thickest single seam of 6.60m within depth range of 39m to 127m have been established. So far 1 km. strike extension of this seam has been proved in the area. Further probing by drilling is in progress.